of undertaking projects of this magnitude are offered to the local youth.

VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: But the attitude of the NHPC's Chairman is bad. That is why I am telling you this.

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया : सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि उत्तर-पूर्वी क्षेत्र में पन-बिजली के पावर स्टेशन बनो का एक आधार था क्योंकि पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में पन-बिजली का उत्पादन अच्छी तरह से किया जा सकता है जबकि तराई क्षेत्रों में इसका उत्पादन करना थोड़ा-सा कठिन लगता है। शायद मंत्री महोदय को पता होगा कि जब पन-बिजली के उत्पादन के लिए ये सारी चीज एनाउंस की गई तो बड़े-बड़े औद्योगिक घरानों ने 100 परमेंट डेप्रिसिएशन के बेनिफिट के लिए इन उद्योगों को लगाया और बैंकों ने भी उसमें मदद की क्योंकि वह डेप्रिसिएशन बैंकों को भी मिलता था। पर पिछले दिनों बैंकों की किसी अधिसूचना के अनुसार वह डेप्रिसिएशन अब फाइनेंसिंग कंपनियों को उपलब्ध नहीं होगा। जब ये औद्योगिक घराने बंद हो जाएंगे तथा छोटे व मझौले औद्योगिक क्षेत्र के लोग और बेरोजगार जब इनको लगाने की कोशिश करेंगे और बैंक से उनकी फाइनेंसिंग नहीं होगी तो ये पन-बिजली के उद्योग कैसे लग सकेंगे, उसके बारे आपने कोई विचार किया है क्या?

श्री सुरेश प्रभु : यह जो आप कह रहे हैं डेप्रिसिएशन के लिए वह तो रिन्युएबल सोसेंज ऑफ एनर्जी की जो मशीनें बनती हैं, उनके लिए दिया जाता है लेकिन डेप्रिसिएशन का रेट तय करना, यह फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री के नोटिफिकेशन से होता है। आपने, जो कठिनाई कुछ लोगों को हो रही है, उसके बारे में जानकारी दी है, मैं उसे वित्त मंत्री जी के पास जरूर पहुंचाऊंगा। हो रही है, उसके बारे में जानकारी दी है, मैं उसे वित्त मंत्री जी के पास जरूर पहुंचाऊंगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 142.

Introduction of TUFS In Assam

*142. SHRI INDRAMONI BORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been introduced in Assam;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) the number of beneficiaries of this Scheme in powerloom, jute and textile sectors separately?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since 1.4.1999 for a period of five years.

(c) As per information made available by the nodal financial agencies and their co-opted financial institutions, no application has been received from the State of Assam for assistance under TUFS.

SHRI INDRAMONI BORA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to put my question. I am satisfied with the reply of the Minister. In part (c) of the reply, it is said, "As per information made, available by the nodal financial agencies and their coopted financial institutions, no application has been received from the State of Assam for assistance under TUFS". I want to know why no application has been received. There are a lot of small scale industries, specially about 3000 powerloom entrepreneurs. It is not that applications have not come. But the financial institutions, the Director of Industries and the nationalised banks are not aware that such a scheme is there. The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme is meant for the benefit specially of the small scale industries. Not only the financial institutions, but even the Director of Industries, Government of Assam, is not aware that such a scheme is there. I want to know whether the Minister has taken any initiative to spread awareness about this Scheme in the North-eastern Region, specially in Assam, and other parts of the country. Even the Assam Financial Corporation says that it does not know that there is any such scheme of the Government of India.

Secondly the rules for getting assistance under this Scheme are tough. I want to know whether the Minister is thinking of relaxing these rules so as to enable the entrepreneurs to avail of the assistance under this Scheme with less effort and less harassment.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, it is not true that either my Ministry or the nodal financial agencies are not doing anything for spreading awareness about this Scheme. After the launching of the TUFS, the nodal financial agencies organised 29 seminars throughout the country, including Assam, for spreading awareness about this Scheme. Not only that; in April, 2001, my Ministry had convened a conference of the North-Eastern States, which was attended by the concerned Ministers and Government representatives. Not only that, we have done one more thing. On 6th November, 2001, we, in

association with PSC (IJIRA) Guwahati, had organised a workshop on powerloom. This workshop also covered the issue of TUFS. So, it shows that we are making a lot of efforts in this regard.

Sir, so far as the norms for TUFS arc concerned, whenever we, or, the nodal agency receives complaints or suggestions from the representatives of the Government or the financial institutions or the representatives of trade, we always try to reduce or dilute the norms. Earlier, there was the norm of profitability. But the nodal agency has now diluted this norm, and now wjicn a person wants to establish a new unit or to replace the old machinery, the nodal agency sees to it whether it is viable or not. The second dilution of this norm is relating to promoters' contribution. Earlier, it was fixed at 33.3 per cent, but now it is only 20 per cent. Sir, the third dilution of norms is this. Earlier, the repayment period was of 8 years but now the repayment period has been fixed at 10 years which includes two years moratorium and eight years' repayment period. So, whenever we, or, the nodal agency receives these type of suggestions, we always try to dilute norms. Ultimately, we want that benefits of the TUFS should reach the textile industry; and the States so that they can generate more and more employment Opportunities.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूं कि नेशनल टैक्सटाइल पॉलिसी, 2000 के तहत यह घोषण की गई थी कि कपड़ा उद्योग से जुड़े हुए तमाम मैन्युफैक्ररिग सैक्टर में टी0यू0एफ0एस0 को प्रसारित किया जाएगा। जाहिर है कि रेडीमेंड गारमेंट भी इसी का एक अंग हैं। मैं आपसे जानना चाहती हूं कि रेडीमेंड गारमेंट यूनिट में टी0यू0एफ0एस0 को प्रसारित करने के लिए आप क्या कर रहे हैं तथा पश्चिम बंगाल से आपको टी0यू0एफ0एस0 के बारे में कितने आवेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं?

श्री काशीराम राणा : सभापति महोदय, टी0यू0एफ0एस0 का लाभ गारमेंट्स इंडस्ट्री को भी दिया जाता है। जिन स्टेट्स से भी एप्लीकेशन मिलती हैं उन सभी स्टेट्स से एप्लीकेशन्स लेने से हमने कभी इंकार नहीं किया है। अभी पूछा गया है कि वेस्ट बंगाल में कितनी यूनिट्स को उसका लाभ दिया गया है तो इसकी डिटेल आने पर मैं जरूर टेबल पर रखूंगा। गारमेंट इंडस्ट्री के लिए सरकार ने इस बजट में और बजट से पहले भी पश्चिम बंगाल में जो एपेरेल पार्क बनाना है उसके तहत एक कार्यक्रम बनाया है। इसके तहत जिस स्टेट से भी गारमेंट पार्क के लिए हमें एप्लीकेशन मिलेगी उस संबंध में वित्त मंत्री ने बजट में बहुत सारी रियायतें डिक्लेयर की है। सरकार ने एक और निर्णय भी लिया है कि जहां गारमेंट पार्क हैं वहां इन्फ्रास्ट्रकर

फेसिलिटी पहुंचाने के लिए 150 करोड़ रूपये की एक स्कीम अभी-अभी सरकार ने सैंक्शन की है। जहां भी ऐसे गारमेंट पार्क या एपरेल पार्क बनाने की योजना होगी हम उस पर कार्रवाई करेंगे।

SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much amount was allocated by the Ministry of Textilics for the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme and how much has been spent from that.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: So far as the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme is concerned. Sir, by the end of January, 2002. the number of applications received is 1465; and the total cost of project is Rs. 13,747.17 crores. Out of this amount required under TUFS is Rs. 7910.13 crores. Out of the 1465 applications, the nodal agencies have sanctioned 1232 applications; the sanctioned amount is Rs. 5056.74 crores; money disburse is Rs. 3281.85 crores. In the last month, I called a meeting of the chairman of nodal banks and now there is an increase in the number and in the sanction of applications; for example, in December, 2001, wc received only 26 applications; in January, 2002, we received 63 applications. So, now the TUFS is picking up very well.

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister in regard to the TUFS, because, now; the NTC mills are being revived. At the BIFR meeting, the trade .unions had given their memorandum of understanding. My specific question is : When you consider cases for assistance under TUFS, would you give priority to the NTC mills which arc going to be revived? I would also like to know from the hon. Minister about the progress of TUFS, after its implementation.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, just now I gave some figures on TUFS. Hon. Members wants to know the performance of the TUFS. so far as the NTC mills arc concerned. Sir, this is a different case. Under the TUFS, the nodal agency tries to provide finance to the units. But NTC is a separate body and the Government is preparing a revival package; it is under the consideration of the BIFR. So, it is a different matter.

श्री शंकर राय चौधरी : सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि

टेक्नालॉजी अपग्रेडेशन स्कीम के तहत पश्चिमी बंगाल के नादिया डिस्ट्रिक्ट के शंतिपुर में जो टेक्सटाइल टेस्टिंग लेबोरेट्रीज है, क्या वह चालू हो गई है या नहीं?

श्री काशीराम राणा : सर, जहां तक टेक्सटाइल टेस्टिंग लेबोरेट्रीज का सवाल है, उसके संबंध में मैं पूरी जानकारी माननीय सदस्य को पहुंचा दूंगा।

SHRI SURESH A. KESHWANI: Sir, regarding the TUFS, have you considered the point that this Fund is primarily meant for modernising the capital equipment of the textile mills to make these textile mills run, there is a need for working capital. Your banks have got huge non performing assets portfolio in the textile sector, and the total exposure of the textile sector is so large that they have given instructions down the line that no proposals for working capital for the textile sector are to be considered. Under the circumstances, don't you think that even if you invest the money, for upgrading the technology, all the capital equipment can't be used because of want of working capital? How are you proposing to correct this mismatch? Are you making a coordinated approach with the financial institutions and banks to ensure that your programme of upgrading the textile industry in India meets with success?

SHRI KASHIRAM RAN A: Sir, the Technology Upgradation fund Scheme is solely meant for modernisation of the textile industry. It is just for upgrading the technology in order to modernise the existing or the new units. Sir, this Fund is going to be utilised for the modernisation of the textile industry. As a good suggestion has been made by the hon. Member with regard to coordinating our approach with other institutions, I would like to inform that we are always trying to call the representatives from trade and financial institutions and discussing with them. We also try to know the reasons why our

scheme is not picking up. We arc always trying to coordinate with various institutions on this fund scheme. I would keep in mind the suggestion that has been made by Shri Kcswani.

Question No. 143. [The questioner (Shri Amar Singh) was absent for answer *vide* page 31 infra.]

Question No. 144. [The questioner (Shri K. Rahman Khan) was absent for answer *vide* page 32 infra]

Proposal from private entrepreneurs for licencing production of defence equipments

*145. SHRIMATI VANG A GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invited proposals from private entrepreneurs for licencing production of arms, ammunitions and other defence equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the PSUs would continue to enjoy purchase preference and price preference in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERN ANDES): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Tabic of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) The Defence industry sector has been opened for participation by Indian Private Sector upto 100% of equity with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) component of it being permissible upto 26%, both being subject to licensing permissions. This includes all types of defence equipment. Guidelines have been issued by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in consultation with the Ministry of Defence regarding the modalities for consideration of applications for grant of licence. The private companies arc allowed to apply cither individually or by a partnership firm amongst